

Seeking a
unique gift?

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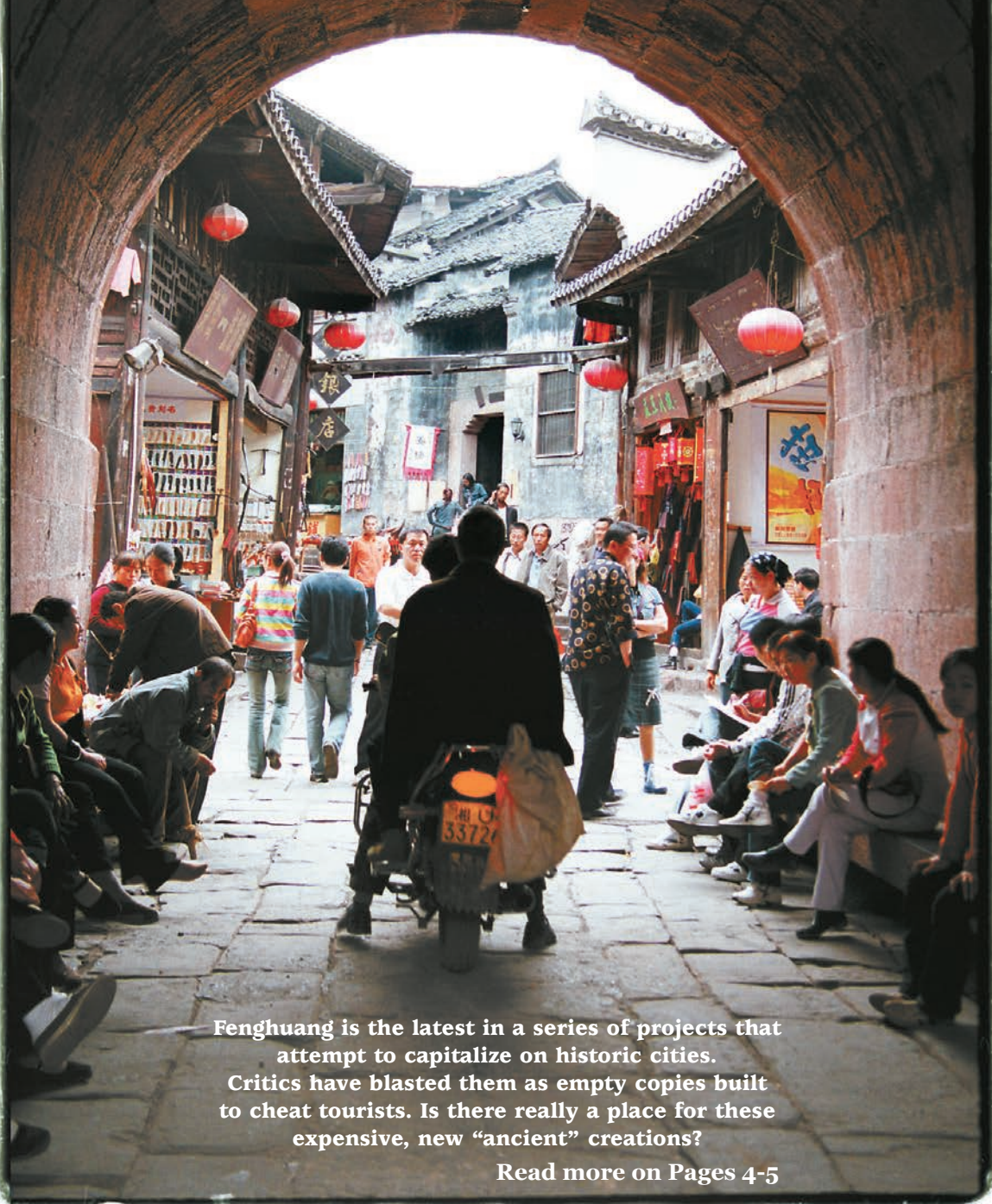


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Stepping back in history

In spite of its comparatively small budget and tight shooting schedule, Zheng Dasheng's *Useless Man* steps back in history to capture the Tianjin of 1936.

New 'ancient' towns part of retro wave



Fenghuang is the latest in a series of projects that attempt to capitalize on historic cities.

Critics have blasted them as empty copies built to cheat tourists. Is there really a place for these expensive, new "ancient" creations?

Read more on Pages 4-5

Brazil Illustrated

By Liu Xiaochen

The opening ceremony of *Illustra Brazil*, an exhibition featuring works by 100 Brazilian illustrators, was held by the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, the Embassy of Brazil and the Society of Illustrators of Brazil (SIB) at 798 Art Zone on Wednesday.

The exhibition will only be open until Sunday.

Works on display are meant to represent Brazil. They include illustrations of soccer greats such as Kaka and Ronaldinho, children playing on sandlots, beaches, farms, festivals and carnivals. People of all races and ethnicities are featured.

"The illustrations are famous in Brazil," said Lio Flores, a producer who is in charge of the exhibition. "We want to use the form of illustration to let Chinese people learn about Brazil. Here you can see a lot of different things, the diversity of Brazil."

"We try to depict different shapes or different faces of Brazilian art through illustrations," said Claudio Garon, a minister-counselor in the Brazilian embassy. "Brazil is a colorful country. You see a lot of color there, and these illustrations show that."

"Some artists presented here are very famous. Others are new talents selected by curators to have their art shown in China."

The exhibition is part of an annual SIB event that provides a space for people to discuss and explore Brazilian arts.

Illustra Brazil first launched in 2004. The exhibition was presented in many



Visitors at the exhibition

Photo by Liu Xiaochen



Ronaldinho's portrait by Mario Alberto (left)

Landscape of Brazil by Guazzelli (right)

Photos provided by Lio Flores



Brazilian cities, collecting the best works from SIB.

Lectures, debates and workshops were also organized, gathering many professionals from media, advertising, comics and animation.

Ministry of External Relations of Brazil supported SIB to take its exhibition abroad. It promoted contemporary Brazilian illustration, but also gave outsiders a glimpse of the country's cultural richness.

"We try to build the

bridge between China and Brazil and show different aspects of Brazilian culture and also Brazilian day-to-day life," Garon said.

This is the second time that *Illustra Brazil* has been held in China. The first time was last year in Shanghai. It will travel to Hanover, Germany next week, then Singapore next year.

During the exhibition, workshops and lectures will be held at surrounding universities.

European film festival promotes understanding

By Liu Xiaochen

This year's European Union Film Festival, sponsored by the EU delegation to China and European Union Chamber of Commerce, will run until November 30 in Beijing, with films at cinemas in Sanlitun, the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art and other cultural centers.

Certain cultural services of the embassies will show films as well, including the French, Italian, Spanish and Polish cultural services of embassies.

Events will also happen

in Tianjin, Chengdu and Shenzhen.

Twenty-six films – each from a different EU member state – will be screened in their original language with English and Chinese subtitles.

Some movies were also shown last year, including *Michael* from Austria, *Tous les Soleils* from France, *Lessons of a Dream* from Germany, *La Kryptonite Nella Borsa* from Italy, *Sonny Boy* from Holland and *Fish n' Chips* from Cyprus. *Anonymous* from the UK, which is not an EU state, will also be shown.

"These films, among Europe's best, reflect the shared values, emotions and desires of human beings," said Ai Dehe, ambassador of European Union delegation. "We hope the audience gets a more in-depth understanding of the EU, the European people and European culture through these films."

This year's film festival is one of the key projects as part of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue for Europe and China, a large-scale cultural communication event organized by China's Ministry of Culture and the

European Commission Directorate General for Education and Culture.

"I hope the EU Film Festival can help Chinese audiences learn more about Europe," said Davide Cucino, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China. "At the same time, it shows our good living, commercial and investment environment. I hope it can contribute to building bridges of cooperation in the film industry between Europe and China."

The Year of Intercultural



Dialogue promotes mutual understanding in all fields, especially education, research and academic exchanges among scholars.

More European movies are expected to become available for streaming on Sohu, a popular Chinese Internet portal.

Both online and offline activities will also be held during the festival. EU member states will give gifts and souvenirs to participants as well.

Top sites team up to charge for music

By Bao Chengrong

Warner Music Group, Universal Music and Sony Music Entertainment, together with 13 other international record companies, plan to make Chinese listeners pay for their music by the end of the year.

Qu Weilin, manager of marketing at QQ Music, recently announced his company had struck a deal with the recording industry giants.

But forcing Chinese listeners to cough up money for their favorite tracks may be impossible.

One of the few things working in QQ's favor is that October 20 marked the end of Google's cooperation with WIDGET, China's largest platform with copyrighted music distributed for free.

Music providers such as QQ, Baidu and Kugou have all seen potential in domestic music sales.

Last year, International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) reported that 71 percent of the total music industry profits in China came from digital sales.

China is assumed to have no fewer than 700 million potential music consumers. As long as 30 percent are active users and each pays 10 yuan per month, the digital market could generate billions of yuan.

Among the interviewees, some were staunchly opposed to paying, a few had already paid and many said they would pay if the distribution platform is good and their money goes to support the artists.

Voices

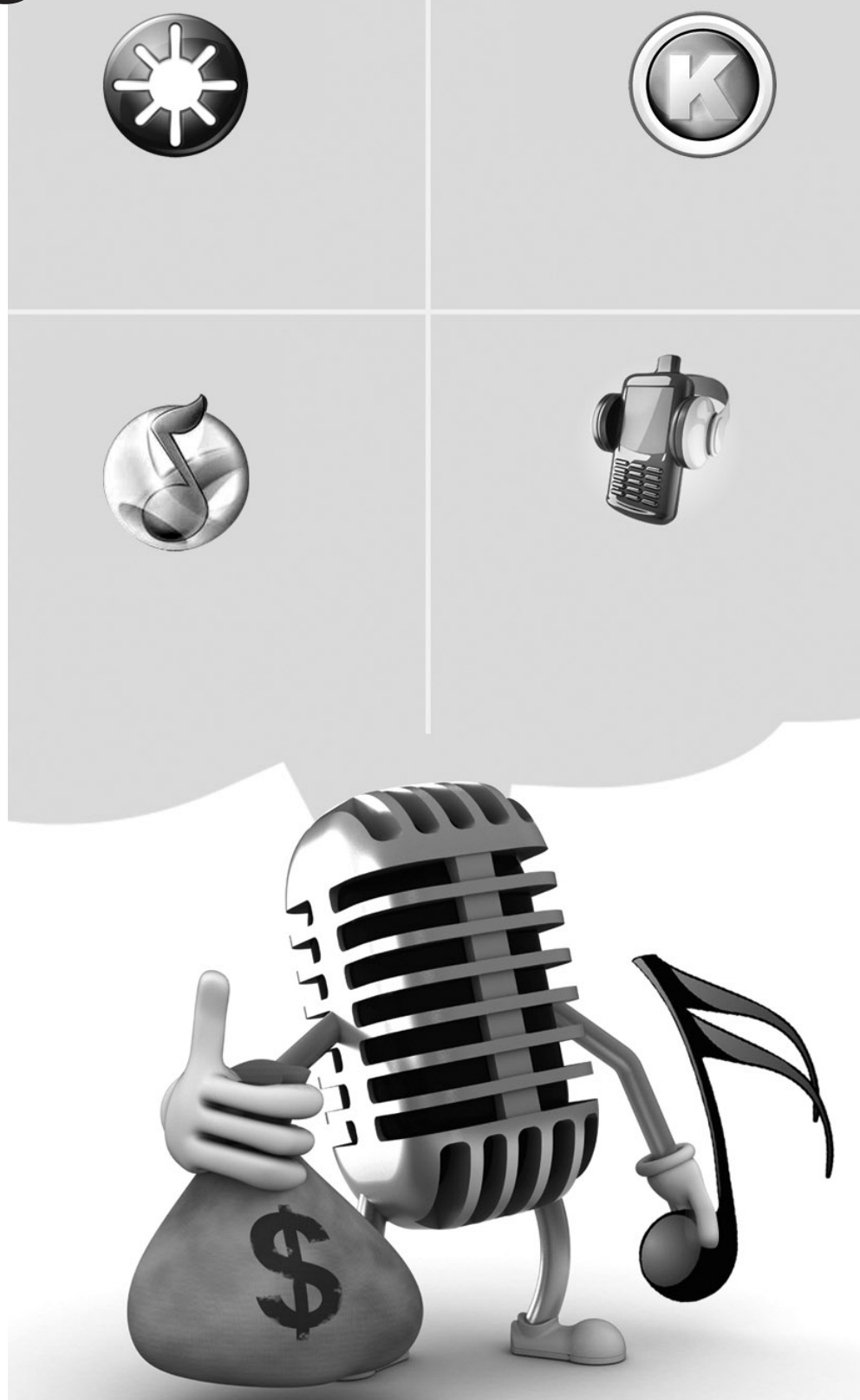
Free music forever

As long as I can find a way to download music without paying, then I will not pay. Maybe I should download more songs now. I think there will always be advertisers who want to share the commercial music for free in order to get more visitors.

— Chen Peng, 24, graduate student at Shantou University

Pay to support musicians

I would pay for original and remixed music on Douban.com if I were charged. Independent musicians devote considerable effort to creating their own works, even though it pays little. I like to visit music festivals because I can see the rock



Major providers like DuoMi, QQ Music and Kugou plan to charge for music downloads. CFP Photo

bands I love. They don't earn enough to sell a concert. I usually buy their CDs, but if there was an online payment platform that guaranteed CD-quality music, I would choose to pay for music downloads. A subscription fee of 30 to 50 yuan per month would be acceptable. If it costs more than 50 yuan, I would probably pirate the albums. My fear is that this new service will only make businessmen rich while musicians see little profit. There should be

laws on revenue sharing to protect the interests of musicians.

— Jiang Shan, 22, graduate student at the London School of Economics and Political Science

If I am not able to find free MP3 with at least 128k quality, I might pay for QQ Music downloads. I can accept paying 10 yuan per month, but would probably listen to free streaming radio stations and spend 120 yuan on the albums that

really impress me. I might download some songs, but definitely not as many as I do today. I download five to six songs per week – around 20 per month. My brother used to download copyrighted music to share with me. Sometimes, I feel sorry for the singers because I use QQ Music.

— Zhang Yao, junior of Fudan University

I think CD sales are still an important source of revenue

if the singer is popular. However, even if you have to pay for CDs, but can find a lot of channels through which you can get the music without paying for it. When I start earning money, I will pay to support the artists. I think the power of the record industry is decreasing, but I still want to support the musicians.

— Li Qiyu, 21, junior of Shantou University

Digital music sales could help musicians to earn more money, which could encourage them to produce more and better works.

— Zhan Hua, CEO of Taihe Rye Music

Pay for better service

I started to pay to download music when I was in junior high. The incredible availability of free music has made it less interesting for me. I find that hearing too much garbage music makes me less interested in listening in general.

— Zhang, 24, staff of Deutsche Bank

If some websites still provide copyrighted music for free, then charging is suicide. However, if YinYueTai.com charged for music video downloads, I would consider paying. Its video quality is high and it provides a platform for singers and fans to interact. Besides, many of its music videos are exclusives.

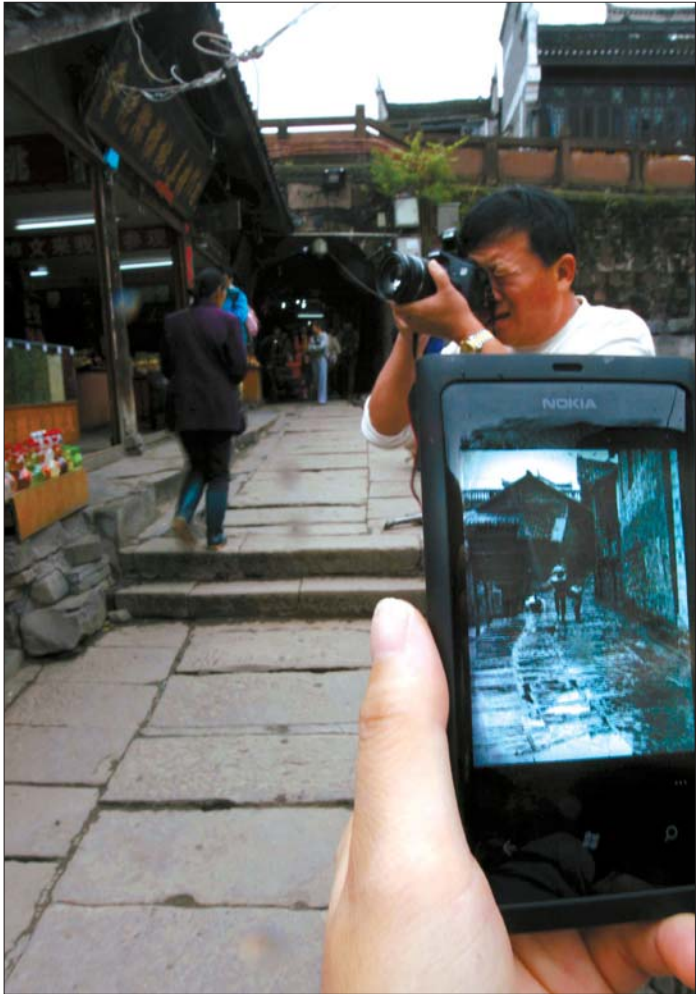
— Cai Bimei, 24, editor of Southern Weekly

The core of the music industry is not the music, but the listeners. "User experience" is the most important element in ensuring the industry continues to develop.

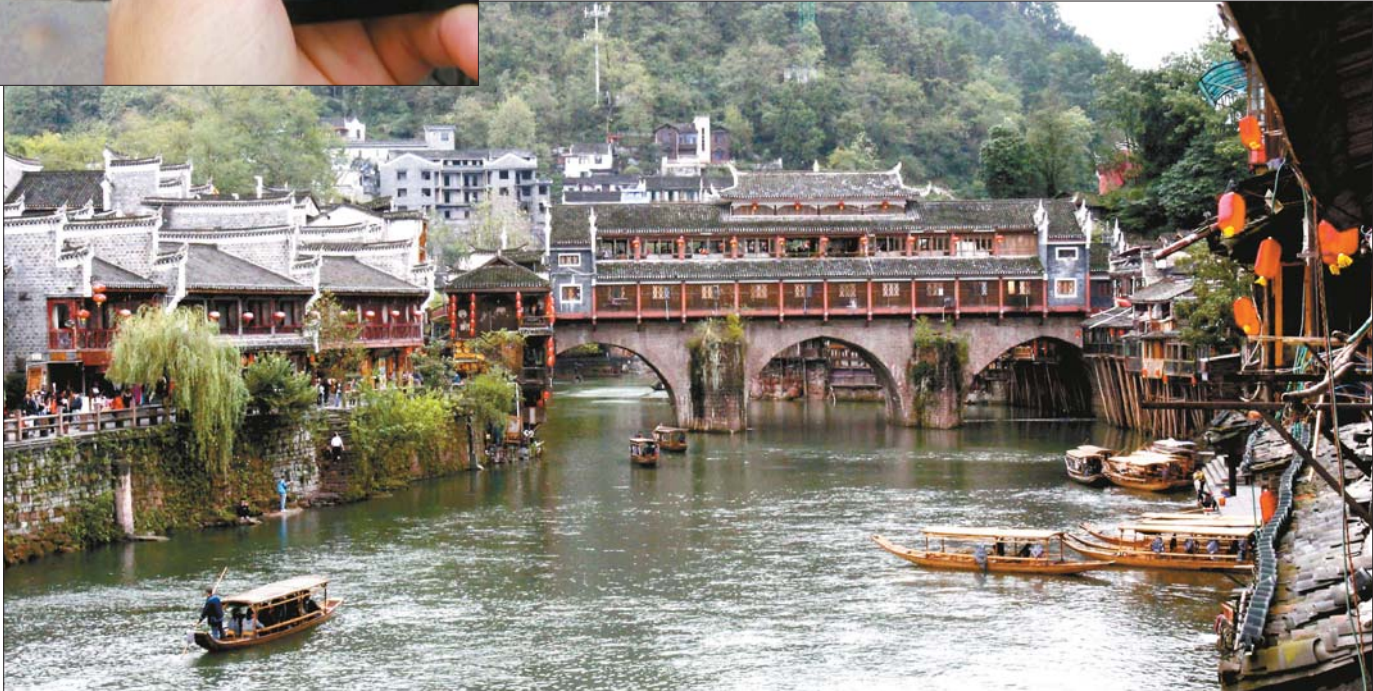
— Wang Ran, 44, CEO of China eCapital Corporation

Users will still be able to listen to average quality music for free. They would only be charged for high-quality downloads. Unlike iTunes, DuoMi would be like a professional dietitian, tailoring its recommendations to the listener's tastes. It would provide precise service to allow users to get the songs they want. This model can be profitable for the content producers, the record companies and the service providers.

— Shi Jianping, 50, CEO of DuoMi



Comparison of Shawan Ancient Street in 1980 and today



Fenghuang's Hong Bridge after renovation

Fenghuang the retro way

By Liang Xiying

Fenghuang, a famous county in the Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Hunan Province, is on the verge of collapse.

To balance its development and protection, the government has decided to construct a new Yanyu Fenghuang near the ancient town.

Even before the project broke ground, it was criticized as being a “copy” designed to “cheat” tourists.

But projects like Yanyu Fenghuang are hardly uncommon, and are part of a greater “retro wave” sweeping the Chinese mainland.

Fenghuang County, a AAAA-level national scenic spot, has found new fame. Alley Rewi, a writer from New Zealand, called it “the most beautiful city in China.”

Although only 1.8 square kilometers in area, Fenghuang is the birthplace of numerous cultural celebrities such as Shen Congwen, the author of *Border Town*, Xiong Xiling, premiere of the Republic of China from 1913 to 1914, and Huang Yongyu, a contemporary painter.

But Fenghuang is changing.

In the last decade, it went from receiving 570,000 tourists per year to more than 6.5 million – an additional 4.3 billion yuan for the community.

Yanyu
Fenghuang

Date Started	Project	Location	Expected Completion	Investment Cost (in billions of yuan)	Financial Backers	Total Constructed (in hectares)
January 2008	Datong Ancient City	Shanxi Province	5 years (2012)	50	Datong City Government	No data
January 2010	Shazhou Ancient City	Gansu Province	No data	3	Shanghai Garuda Cultural Tourism Development	1.27
April 2010	Luanzhou Ancient city	Hebei Province	6 years (2015)	5	Huitong Holdings	130
May 2011	Yaodi Ancient City	Jinhu County Jiangsu Province	5 years (2015)	3	Jinhu County Government	83.9
February 2012	Xixia Ancient City	Ningxia Province	3 years (2014)	0.3	Fuxingda Real Estate Development Group	4.9
June 2012	Kaiyuan Ancient City	Liaoning Province	5 years (2016)	8	Jiamusi Industrial Real Estate Development	377 (with environment)
August 2012	Kaifeng Old District Reform	Henan Province	4 years (2015)	100	Kaifeng City Government	1,300
May 2013	Yanyu Fenghuang	Fenghuang County	3 years (2015)	5.5	Unitenix	700 (with environment)

Huitong Holdings is controlled by Chuxiong Huitong Culture of Ancient Town Tourism Development and Yunnan Weiguang Economic and Trade.

next casualty of ve

Ye Wenzhi, leader of Unitenix, said he never imagined the new city would be so controversial. In his mind, Yanyu Fenghuang is only a complementary overflow zone. When visitors arrive, they can drive to the new city, stay in a more modern hotel, while hopping over to the ancient city to see the sights during the day. It can also provide restaurants and spas when the original Fenghuang is too crowded. But Ye's dream city could get blocked by the government. The project cannot begin until it is approved by the National Development and Reform Commission.

Retro-wave
Ye's idea is not that original. "New" ancient cities have been popping up all over the country and – to similarly visceral reaction. An Internet survey by Chinese

Tourism Newspaper and Sohu Clubs found that 75 percent of respondents opposed. About 43 percent said the new city was nothing but a copy, while 57 percent said it had nothing to do with the historic culture. Is the "retro-wave" about protecting the ancient city or bolstering the nation's GDP? Each project costs billions of yuan and brings a heavy burden to the local economy. Furthermore, people who live in these ancient cities are called on to reinvent their lives to suit the government's purposes. That these projects are sold on the promise of profit without considering their social costs has caused many to lose faith. **Success hard to copy** That's not to say a new ancient city cannot succeed. Pingyao was a success more because of its careful planning than any luck. The city was carefully partitioned into sections for commercial use, dining and other purposes. The Fenghuang government was considerably less experienced and did not create such a comprehensive plan. But there are more reasons that make Pingyao's success so difficult to copy. Pingyao is located in the hinterland of the Central Plains, while Fenghuang is in a secluded valley on the Tuo River. Its tourism area is quite limited. Most of the current villagers also depend on tourism for their livelihood, making it difficult to work them into a new plan. An ongoing battle between the government and the Xiangxi people further complicates their ability to work together. Chaotic management of bars, lodging and restaurants is another problem. Most are operated by outsiders who rent their homes from locals. They have legal contracts, preventing the government from simply shutting down their businesses. A more successful example is Wuzhen, Zhejiang Province. Wuzhen "built a new city to protect the ancient city." Its construction was led by a government-organized tourism company, which used government assets as collateral to receive funding for the project. Wuzhen's new town includes almost 60,000 square meters of buildings and ancillary facilities. Modern businesses are collected in the new town area, controlling commercialization of the historic sites. But Yanyu Fenghuang is different. The construction company, Unitenix, cooperates with the government but is not led by it. This makes it considerably

more difficult to secure funding. Second, Wuzhen is controlled by China Youth Travel Service (CYTS) and financially supported by the local government. Liu Yahui, a researcher at China International Trust and Investment Corporation, said it benefits from its proximity to economic powerhouses such as Shanghai and Hangzhou. While a total income of 250 million yuan in 2010, Unitenix is far less powerful than CYTS. Above all, Fenghuang is located in a narrow valley and is hard to reach. The nearest inhabited area is Huaihua, a small city to the southeast. The real problem behind the criticism to Yanyu Fenghuang is more important, Yang Gengshen, deputy editor in chief of Xiaoxiang Morning News, said Yanyu Fenghuang might be the latest casualty of the "Retro-wave" – a movement that conflates chaotic, unrealistic goals with hope of success.



Future site of Yanyu Fenghuang

“Films and novels take different approaches to telling stories, but that in the end, it's the story that matters.”



Zheng Dasheng

Small-budget production wins big acclaim



By Chen Nan

Zheng Dasheng had a tight budget and no time to waste: so he shot *Useless Man* and its companion film, *Falling City*, in only 42 days.

Filmed in Shanghai, both movies depict urban life in Tianjin during 1936 to 1937. *Useless Man*, made with just 1.5 million yuan, is based off Lin Xi's novel and stars Guan Xincheng.

Other than her, all the actors are Tianjin people who speak in the local dialect. The movie title describes the idle people who typically gather on the broad streets, socializing and having a good time. In the movie, they're endowed with humor.

But troubles lurk behind the laughs. In the film, one particular idler, Su Hongda, cheats people on a daily basis and meddles with other people's affairs. He is capable of love, however; he pursues Yu Qiuniang, a woman who coaxes men into marriages to profit off their weddings.

One day, a corpse floats by in the river. Su convinces a newspaper editorialist, Yan Erxin, that he is a relative of the dead. His stories about his dead "relative" become more and more fanciful and detailed.

To Su's surprise, Yu then pretends to be the dead man's widow. Their exploits lead them to Hou Siliu, a traitor to the country who defects to the Japanese – and ensnare Su and Yu in a trap.

Zheng said part of the movie's theme is to show that society gave Su and Yu few options other than swindling to make a living. But when confronted with a moral decision, Su and Yu prove they have plenty of ethics, because they don't betray their country.

This theme is also apparent in Lin's novel. Zheng said in recreating it, he wanted to main-



tain the idea of "national identity."

His use of local actors serves this purpose. He tried, as best as he could, to recreate the Tianjin of the 1930s.

With such a small budget, Zheng only had weeks to finish this movie.

"I didn't have a chance to get an extension," he said. "If we worked beyond 42 days, I would've been bankrupt."

He worked long hours as a result, rarely resting. Where there were gaps in the movie, Zheng and his team went to the Film

Archives and borrowed old photos. They were also inspired by many of the folk arts on display.

Zheng said films and novels take different approaches to telling stories, but that in the end, it's the story that matters. "Only a good story can move viewers, and there are numerous outstanding stories in literature," he said.

Zheng has worked with the Chinese Writers Publishing House to find stories that would make for interesting scripts.

As for the soundtrack, Zheng made sure to incorporate classical Chinese music. But he urged the composer to give it a modern twist.

Zheng was born into an acting and producing family in Shanghai, but he grew up in Tianjin. He earned his undergraduate degree from Shanghai Theater Academy China before studying directing at the Art Institute of Chicago.

He rose to fame in 2000 with the production of *A Tao*, which won a jury prize at the Shanghai International TV Festival. In 2005, *Death of Wang Bo* won a Golden Rooster at the Hundred Flowers Film Festival. He also filmed *Harmonious China*, a thematic movie that was shown inside the China Pavilion at Shanghai World Expo.

Zheng is hopeful when it comes to the prospect of Chinese indie films.

"I hope the mature industry can provide us with more opportunities and a bigger stage for development," he said. "But how long it'll take, we have to wait and see."

He is fond of experimenting in his works. Lin said he thinks Zheng's spirit of exploration is commendable.

Zheng is currently preparing to adapt another of Lin's books to the big screen.

Capital M's good view, food and wine

By Annie Wei

Looking for a romantic place to take a date? Capital M is a good option for its emperor's view of Qianmen and delicate food.

The restaurant made a new menu for fall and winter. The tasting menu (488 yuan), featuring signature dishes, is recommended for those who haven't dined at Capital M before. Add another 288 yuan to enjoy four paired wines.

The starter is Espen's Grav-lax on Danish rye bread with a sweet mustard dill sauce, paired with white wine Gruner Veltliner, Dmané Gobelsburg, 2010 from Austria. Many diners like the fresh salmon soaked with sweet and sour sauce.

M's consommé with black truffles, foie gras and pastry hat is light and full of flavor. We also like the white wine Char-donnay, Twinwoods, 2009 from Margaret River.



Afternoon tea with view from the terrace



Crispy pig

The restaurant uses mushrooms and truffles from Yunnan Province in its risotto, paired with Pinot Noir, Manu, 2009, Marlborough from New Zealand.

For the main course, one should try M's crispy suckling pig or slow-braised beef brisket in red wine. Both are paired with Crianza Rioja, Bodegas Covila, 2005, from Spain.

Capital M opened in Hong Kong in 1989, then Shanghai 10 years later.

For dessert, M's Pavlova is famous, with fresh fruit on top of a slightly crispy meringue, with passion fruit sauce, paired with Sweet Sherry PX.

Capital M

Where: 3/F, 2 QianmenDajie, Chongwen District

Open: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm, 6-10:30 pm; brunch and afternoon tea available on weekends

Tel: 6702 2727



M's Pavlova

Photos provided by Capital M

Small eateries, simple food

By Annie Wei

If you just want to grab something simple and wallet-friendly around Sanlitun, here are some options.

Two guys and a pie

Two Australian men opened this pie spot in the same alley as Heaven's Supermarket and The Loop, a bit west of the back of Yaxiu Market in September.

It offers meat pies (25 yuan), chicken pies and vegetable pies with mashed potato.

The eatery is open from 5 to 11 pm on the weekdays, but until 4 am on the weekend to accommodate late-night partiers and club-goers seeking comfort food.

No More Bunz-Hotdog

The owner of this hot dog stand at the intersection of Dongzhimen Wai Dajie and Xindong Lu also runs A Food Affaire, the fresh salad, bakery and dishes counter in April Gourmet.

Hot dogs start at 15 yuan, made with proper bread, meat and cheese. It's popular with students.

The stand is open on weekdays from 11 am to 8 pm.

Xiaowei yansuji

Yansuji is a classic Taiwan snack - the chicken is marinated in wine, ginger and scallions and then deep-fried twice to make it extra crispy. Diners dip it in a pepper-salt mixture before eating.

Li Xiaowei opened the first Xiaowei yansuji at Guomao off Subway Line 10. Li has lived in Beijing for many years and also works at his brother's barbecue restaurant, Shaorouren.

The Sanlitun branch opened at the end of October. A serving of yansuji starts at 15 yuan. Other Taiwan snacks include zhahuazhiwan, deep-fried cuttlefish balls (15 yuan) and winter squash tea (5 yuan).

The branch is located on the second floor of the same building as DVD stores and Pho, opposite Tongli.

Noode bar's new outlet at 3.3

The Noodle Bar at the old building opposite Tongli, behind Sanlitun Village has been popular for many years. Although it's so small and the waiting can cost up one hour, diners like the experience and its delicious noodles (starting from 30 yuan).

It opened a second outlet on the fifth floor of 3.3 this summer.

Pearson Longman English World

late for (time)

- ✗ The buses were full, so I was [^]late for one hour.
✓ The buses were full, so I was one hour late.



- The amount of time goes before 'late' in English but after it in Chinese: 遲了一小時 / Cantonese 遲咗一個鐘頭.
- 'For' is not used.
- You can, however, be 'late for' something:

✓ I was late for the match.

older /
younger than

- ✗ My sister is [^]older than me four years.
✓ My sister is four years older than me.



- The amount of time comes before 'older' and 'younger':

✗ She is [^]younger than me a year.
✓ She is a year younger than me.

Exercise

Choose the correct words:

Rewrite these sentences adding the given word in the correct place.

- Her cousin is older than she is. (three years)
- My mother is younger than my father. (a year)

Answers: 1. Her cousin is three years older than she is. 2. My mother is a year younger than my father.



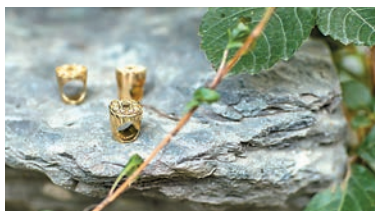
Book title

Common English Errors in Hong Kong (New Edition) 是一本专门为香港初、中级英文水平的学生所编写的自学教材。本书指出并纠正大量本地学生所常犯的英文文法与字法使用上的错误，并附有非常生动活泼的插图，深受青少年学生的青睐。

Unique shopping experiences



Furniture from Li Naihan



Rings from a Thailand designer



Thierry Lasry X Garrett Leight glasses

By Annie Wei

Opened two years ago in a hutong off Nanluogu Xiang, Wuhao has become one of the leading stores for those seeking original and unique products.

Reservations are required. We called a day ahead and were able to secure an appointment for the following afternoon.

The store is a traditional courtyard house with a beautiful garden and three showrooms. If it's not too cold outside, you can sit outside in the garden and drink tea.

The salespeople are attentive and eager to introduce the store's products while you sip tea. The employees there know all about the designers and can tell you why each item is special.

We bought a slim-cut leather jacket (starting from 4,900 yuan). The dark olive color is seldom seen elsewhere.

Christopher Raeburn's recycled fashion (starting from 1,500 yuan), especially items in blue and green patterns, hews to international trends. Many street shoots in Paris and New York feature celebrities wearing similar patterns, which tend to stand out on gray winter days.

The city candles (500 yuan) from a French designer and stationary bird series from Thailand (starting from 120 yuan) make for ideal gifts. The candles give out natural and pleasant smells. Our favorite is one that smells of honey and almond sugar.

We also like Wuhao's sunglasses, from designers Thierry Lasry X Garrett Leight (starting from 1,000 yuan). The frames are strong, and the styles can be quite exaggerated and chic.

Furniture at Wuhao comes from different designers. Customers can ask for tailor-made pieces. The one we favored was Innovo-Pinwu's poetic paper chair. It was made using traditional techniques for making paper umbrellas: gluing layers of paper to make the umbrella strong and resistant from wind and rain. There are enough layers of paper for the seat that one can sit comfortably on it without a worry in the world.

Wuhao Curated-shop

Where: 35 Mao'er Hutong, Dongcheng District

Open: RSVP

Tel: 6400 5435



Foldable furniture



Installation in the garden



Xiao Tianyu's furniture



Innovo-Pinwu's paper chair

Photos provided by WUHAO Curated-shop